

From: Dusty Jones
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:19am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed judgment in the Microsoft antitrust case is flawed. Microsoft has been found guilty of using anti-competitive behaviors to advance its monopoly and should be dealt with appropriately. The settlement as proposed does not deal with Microsoft's past behavior and will not curtail future aggressive monopolistic behavior.

Though I believe the settlement is flawed in other areas, I will focus my comments on the requirements that Microsoft document its middleware. My main argument with this requirement is that file formats used by Microsoft remain undocumented. Microsoft has a monopoly in operating systems and office suites. By forcing Microsoft to document file formats, there will be more competition in the marketplace. There exist products which compete with Microsoft Office, these include Sun's StarOffice, AbiWord, and Gnome's Gnumeric. These products can not truly compete until they are able to exchange documents with Microsoft applications. As the judgment stands Microsoft can modify file formats with every version release (as they have in the past) forcing competitors to continuously play the catch-up game.

Now is the time to level the playing field. The court has the ability to force Microsoft to make reparations for its past monopolistic behavior. The nine state's Attorneys General have done a disservice to the people of America, and the software companies that have been harmed by Microsoft's behavior in the past and those that will be harmed by Microsoft's behavior in the future. Please revise the settlement to truly change Microsoft's aggressive monopolistic practices.

Thank you,

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